

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 10-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-9 are in the case. The amendments cancel claims and amend the pending claims to remove issues from any appeal. The amendments are therefore proper under 37 CFR 1.116. Entry is respectfully requested.

Summary of Interview

Examiner Lu conducted a telephonic interview with the undersigned representative on August 1, 2005. Applicant's representative appreciates the Examiner's courteous and professional manner in conducting this interview. In the interview it was agreed that the current amendment to claim 1 was sufficient to distinguish the claims from the prior art of record, in particular the Harris patent, 6,393,718. It was also agreed that claims 10-15 would be canceled.

Prior Art Rejections

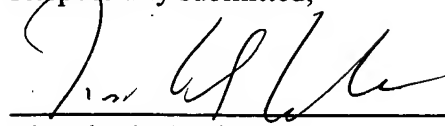
Applicant submits that the amendment to claim 1 is sufficient to overcome all pending prior art rejections. The Harris reference is completely missing a description of at least one element of claim 1, a variable ion output regulator connected to the ion generator and comprising a control for adjusting the ion output from a low level to a high level.

The claims are therefore more clearly distinguished from the cited art. Applicant respectfully requests that all prior art rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the preceding amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the present claims are in condition for immediate allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, Applicant's representative can be reached by telephone at 512.542.8446.

Respectfully submitted,



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